

Claims 5 and 6, line 1 of each, change "4" to -- 1 --.

Claim 7, line 2, delete the quotes around "snap".

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2, 3 and 4, the latter being canceled as redundant.

Claims 1 and 7 have also been amended, taking into account the Examiner's Section 112 rejection.

The claims, as amended, are thought to be free from the Examiner's objections under Section 112. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection is requested.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1-10 based on Catt et al WO 95/13531. A rejection under Section 102 requires disclosure of all of the features defined in a claim. The Examiner has not shown that all of the features claimed by the applicants are shown in the WO disclosure. In fact, the Examiner has even acknowledged that the WO reference does not disclose all of the claimed features.

Furthermore, the Examiner has not shown that the WO disclosure specifically discloses the features of, for example, claims 3 and 4, in the context of a test kit as claimed in prior claim 1. The reference is not an anticipation of the applicants' invention as previously claimed and particularly as claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2, 3 and 4. Furthermore, the

combination of features as called for in amended claim 1 is not obvious from the WO disclosure.

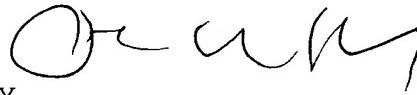
The Examiner is also requested to reconsider the Section 103(a) rejection based on Jina et al. The applicants' invention, particularly as claimed, is not obvious from the reference. The Examiner has not shown how Jina et al would make the combination of features as defined in the applicants' claims, particularly as claim 1 has been amended.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP

By



Paul N. Kokulis
Reg. No. 16773

PNK:mh
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
9th Floor, East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005-3918
Phone: (202) 861-3503